What is the National Immunization Survey?

The National Immunization Survey (NIS) is an ongoing, large national survey designed to estimate vaccination coverage rates for children between the ages of 19 and 35 months residing in the U.S. Official coverage estimates reported from the NIS are rates of being up-to-date with respect to the recommended numbers of doses of six vaccines: diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine, 4 doses; poliovirus vaccine, 3 doses; measles-containing vaccine, 1 dose; *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine, 3 doses; hepatitis B, 3 doses; and varicella vaccine, 1 dose. Estimates of vaccine-specific coverage are available for the US, each state, and 28 urban areas. The NIS uses two phases of data collection to obtain vaccination information from a sample of young children: a random-digit-dialing (RDD) survey for identifying households with children 19-35 months of age, followed by a mail survey for obtaining provider-reported vaccination histories from these children. Provider-reported vaccination histories are used to estimate vaccination coverage rates. In 2000, a total of 1,991,507 randomly sampled telephone numbers were called to identify households with age-eligible children. Of these, 35,960 were households with one or more children 19-35 months of age. Among the households with 1 or more age-eligible children, 33,477 (93.1%) completed the NIS RDD interview, yielding demographic and socioeconomic information on 34,087 children. At the end of the NIS RDD interview, consent was requested to contact eligible children's vaccination providers to obtain their vaccination histories. Among the children for whom NIS RDD interviews were completed, provider reported vaccination histories were obtained from 22,958 (67.4%) for whom adherence to the recommended number of doses for each of the seven vaccines could be determined.

For further information, please visit the National Immunization Survey website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/coverage>